

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LISTED ON:

VLR 04/21/1987  
NRHP 06/10/1985

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Tindall's Point/Gloucester Point

AND/OR COMMON Gloucester Point Archaeological District (Preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER Route 17 at Gloucester Point

☒ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Gloucester Point

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1st, Paul Tribble

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE Virginia

CODE  
51COUNTY  
GloucesterCODE  
073**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                 | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                                     |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE          | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL             | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH  | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                 | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT          | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                       |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (See Continuation Sheet #1)

NAME Commonwealth of Virginia

STREET &amp; NUMBER The College of William and Mary/ c/o President Thomas Graves

CITY, TOWN Williamsburg,

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE  
Virginia**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Gloucester County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN Gloucester

STATE  
Virginia**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Virginia Research Center for Archaeology site survey inventory

DATE 1975-80

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Research Center for ArchaeologyCITY, TOWN Wren Kitchen, College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg,STATE  
Virginia

## 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |   | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>N/A</u>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED        |   |   |

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gloucester Point Archaeological District in Gloucester County, Virginia, includes archaeological sites which span at least 300 years of consecutive historic period occupation. Located on Gloucester Point, a natural land formation which extends into the York River, this acreage includes significant archaeological sites dating from the beginning of the eighteenth century and extending through the close of the Civil War. Seventeenth-century sites are also expected to lie within the nominated area.

Archaeological survey work has been conducted by three groups, the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology, the Gloucester County Archaeological Project team, and the Gloucester County Historical Society. Several eighteenth- and nineteenth-century sites have been located which are included within the nominated area. They are listed in Virginia's inventory of archaeological sites, maintained at the VRCA (Figure 1). There are indications of colonial occupation throughout the nominated area. Six eighteenth-century sites have been identified within the confines of Gloucestertown, an early eighteenth-century port. These sites date from the first half of the eighteenth century and include the foundation remains of several brick buildings.

44G139, a 22 foot by 36 foot brick house foundation with an English basement and bulkhead entrance, dates from ca. 1700 to 1725, with a tentative destruction date of ca. 1765 (Photos 1 and 2). Artifactual remains consist of delftware, white saltglazed stoneware and oriental porcelain, with a predominance of ornamental pieces, suggesting occupation by an individual of higher economic status. According to a 1707 plat of Gloucestertown 44G139 lies in the vicinity of lots 71 and 86, which were owned by wealthy planters Nathaniel and Lewis Burwell.

44G138, an eighteenth-century domestic site, lies southeast of 44G139, also within the original boundaries of Gloucestertown. 44G125, which is sealed by several feet of fill dirt, is also within Gloucestertown. Artifactual material collected at the site consists of white saltglazed stoneware and wine bottle glass and English clay pipestems, all of which date to the eighteenth century.

In the easternmost portion of the nominated area lies an eighteenth-century trash pit, 44G140, at the head of the Gloucestertown cove. This stratigraphically intact deposit measures approximately 40 feet square and varies in depth from six inches to four feet. Five test trenches placed by the Gloucester County Archaeological Survey team were utilized to delimit the site. Large quantities of eighteenth-century material, including pewter, iron tools, brass buckles, buttons, window glass, glass wine goblet fragments, bottle glass, Rhenish stoneware, creamware, oriental porcelain, delft and red earthenware were found in association with brick, bone and oystershell fragments. Kiln furniture, indicative of local pottery manufacture, was also discovered among the refuse. It is hypothesized that this pit was used as a refuse disposal area by the inhabitants of Gloucestertown.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  |   | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW           |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                      | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                         | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                 |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY    | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN       |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                            | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                       | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)           |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                         |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

N/A

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

N/A

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gloucester Point Archaeological District in Gloucester County, Virginia, a triangular promontory of land which extends southward into the York River, contains a series of archaeological remains spanning 300 years of Virginia history. From the beginning of the seventeenth century until the end of the Civil War, Gloucester Point was a focal point of concurrent commercial, domestic and military activity. As archaeological testing has proven that much of this area is preserved in an undisturbed state, scientific archaeological excavation of sealed layers within the Gloucester Point Archaeological District could yield important data which would expand knowledge of Virginia's early history. The eastern periphery of the nominated area includes the western shore of a cove of natural harbor which was the site of an eighteenth-century port, Gloucestertown.

Gloucester Point was noted by English explorers early in the seventeenth century. Robert Tyndall, a mariner who had come to Virginia in the first party of English settlers, gave his name to the point when he drew a chart of the James and York Rivers (Photo 8). Captain John Smith, who mapped Virginia in 1610, perpetuated the name Tyndall's Poynt (Photo 9). Throughout the seventeenth and most of the eighteenth centuries Tyndall's (or Tindall's) Point was a frequently referred to natural landmark on maps and in public documents. In the late eighteenth century the area became known more commonly as Gloucester Point.

During the early years of colonization, as the Virginia tobacco economy gained impetus, settlement spread along the more navigable waterways and encompassed the country across the York River which later became Gloucester County. By February 1632/33 the Executive Council ordered the construction of a tobacco storage warehouse "at the Rocks against Tindall's Point to be used by all inhabitants of the Charles (York) River."<sup>1</sup> This is the earliest documentary evidence of structures being built at Gloucester Point. The selection of this site implies that Gloucester Point was conveniently located along a commonly used shipping route. The only area of rocky shoreline at Gloucester Point lies within the nominated acreage and it is expected to contain the archaeological remains of this tobacco warehouse.

Gloucester Point was occupied by the middle of the seventeenth century. Argoll Yeardley, son of Sir George Yeardley, patented 4,000 acres there in October 1640. During the next 25 years Yeardley's land was subdivided several times. John Fleete, a former member of the Maryland Legislature, was living at Gloucester Point by 1667. In 1674 John Leeke and Robert Todd, Jr. patented land on the cove at Gloucester Point.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

H.L. Abbott, "Plan of the Siege of Yorktown," 1862.

William Byrd, The Secret Diary of William Byrd of Westover, 1709-1712, ed. L.B. Wright and M. Tinling, (Richmond, 1941).

Calendar of State Papers (Richmond).

See Continuation Sheet # 9

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 59 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E) 18/ 366630/ 4123380  
zone easting northing

A 18 366860 4123700  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C 18 367360 4123350

B 18 367180 4123580  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D 18 366800 4123120

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the east northeast by the shoreline of the Gloucester Point cove (BC); on the southeast by the shoreline of the York River, westerly to Point D at the Southwest corner of a metal fence on Virginia Institute of Marine Science property; from D northwest across Route 17 to Point E (the intersection of an un-numbered secondary road and the 20 foot contour line); northeast along the property owned by Gloucester County to Point A; easterly along Route 1208 to Point B.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A   |      |        |      |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| N/A   |      |        |      |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Martha W. McCartney and David K. Hazzard

June 6, 1980

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Wren Kitchen, College of William and Mary

TELEPHONE  
804-253-4836

CITY OR TOWN

Williamsburg, Virginia 23186

STATE

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE X

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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- 2) Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Bull, c/o Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association, Box 1811, Norfolk, Virginia 23501.
- 3) Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hogge, Box 204, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23602
- 4) Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Sowers, Sr., Box 246, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 5) Mr. and Mrs. Bryan J. Taber, c/o United Virginia Bank Mortgage Corporation, Box 2H, Richmond, Virginia 23203
- 6) Mr. and Mrs. John I. Pollok, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 7) Ms. Lucy R. Lynch, Box 11, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 8) Mr. and Mrs. John Herbert Geddings, Twin Chimneys Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 9) Dr. and Mrs. Howard L. Cox, Schley, Virginia 23154
- 10) Vivian and T.C. Clopton, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 11) Abingdon Fire Department, c/o Chief Hugh Rowe, Bena, Virginia 23018
- 12) Mr. and Mrs. Milford Holben, Box 157, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 13) Mrs. Edna E. Riley, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062
- 14) Mr. John Jackson, County Administrator, Gloucester County, Box 329, Gloucester, Virginia 23061

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Immediately adjacent to 44G140 are four Gloucestertown lots known to have contained structures during the mid-eighteenth century. These buildings belonged to John Thurston, a Gloucestertown merchant, and are mentioned in his 1763 will. Gloucestertown lot #78 lies due west of 44G140, whereas lots 8,9, and 27 were located along the western shore of the cove. These areas are almost totally undisturbed in 1980 and are currently covered by lawn. Dry patches of grass and surface irregularities suggest the presence of below-ground structures.

44G169, located within the Gloucestertown bounds, consist of two separate buildings, one of which dates to the first half of the eighteenth century and the other to the early nineteenth century. The eighteenth-century structure measures approximately 15 feet by 30 feet (Photos 3 and 4). Based upon artifactual and cartographic evidence, this structure, which may have been a tavern, stood until the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. Analysis of 600 pipestem fragments found in a three foot by five foot test pit bisecting the builder's trench, suggests a construction date of 1730. A smaller building, measuring 10 feet by 10 feet, was constructed in the early part of the nineteenth century over the southwest corner of the foundation remains of the eighteenth-century structure (Photos 5 and 6). The nineteenth-century building appears to have been in use until ca. 1860.

Archaeological survey work by the VRCA and the Gloucester County Archaeological Project survey team in 1975-77 verified the archaeological integrity of the Civil War earthworks at Gloucester Point. Consisting of a star-shaped fort which was set back from the tip of the point (Photo 7), approximately 50 percent of these earthworks remain intact and have been designated 44G134. Although portions of Civil War fortifications have been impacted by the construction of Route 17 and the intrusion of modern buildings, large intact sections of these earthworks are present on Virginia Institute of Marine Science land and property owned by Gloucester County. They lie within the nominated area. The VRCA survey of the Civil War earthworks on the west side of Route 17 located intact sections of the Revolutionary War fortifications at Gloucester Point.

A bomb proof, associated with the Civil War earthworks and designated 44G1170, was tested by the Gloucester County Historical Society in 1980. This structure was found to have intruded upon an earlier site which artifactually dates to the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Fragments of delft tile and unglazed roofing tile were found as well as fragments of earthenware identified as having been manufactured in Yorktown, Virginia, ca. 1720 by William Rogers. These eighteenth-century sites lie within the eastern point of the star-shaped fort.

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Archaeological testing by the VRCA in 1980 revealed that the tip of Gloucester Point had been graded extensively and the edges of its bluffs removed. According to local residents, this earth-removal took place in the 1930's. Because deep grading operations would have destroyed the archaeological remains of the post wind-mill and sea batteries known to have been near the tip of the point, these disturbed areas have not been included within the nominated acreage.

Those land areas to the east of the tip of the point and adjacent to the cove were not affected by grading. Sand and silt deposition in the last 200 years has created buildup on the eastern side of the point, with erosion occurring on the western side, an area not included in this nomination. An 1862 engraving of Gloucester Point shows that it was extensively occupied during the Civil War period (Figure 2). It should be noted that the remains of a chimney associated with Gloucestertown may be seen in the right-hand section of this engraving.

Only those areas known to contain archaeological remains have been included in this nomination.

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Todd's patent refers to a "Greate Roade," which by then extended to the tip of the point where a public ferry traversed the York River. Two other mid-seventeenth-century settlers, John Williams and Mrs. Rebecca Lake, lived nearby. In 1676 the Executive Council considered building the colony's new statehouse at Gloucester Point after the one at Jamestown had been burned by Bacon's army.

When the 1680 Act for Cohabitation and Encouragement of Trade and Manufacturing was passed, Gloucester Point was among twenty prospective town sites designated. The community was to be called Gloucestertown. The 1680 town act was intended to encourage aggregate settlement, believed by the Crown to be beneficial to the colony. These towns were to function as ports of entry and egress. Tobacco storage warehouses were to be built at each port to which planters could bring their crops to await export. The Gloucester Point tobacco warehouse was to be built in 1680 on John Williams's property, which lay adjacent to the cove. By 1682 Gloucestertown had been surveyed into one-half acre lots, although documentary evidence does not indicate whether any of these lots were actually sold.

In 1691 interest in the establishment of port town was renewed and a new town act was passed. By 1693, however, this act had been repealed and it was not until 1706 that town-founding was undertaken in earnest. According to the 1706 legislation, lot owners had one year's time from the date of purchase to construct "a good house to contain 20 feet square in the least."<sup>2</sup> As an inducement to settlement, port towns were given a monopoly on certain types of trade and their inhabitants, an immunity from certain debtors liabilities.

In April 1707 the boundaries of Gloucestertown and its lots were resurveyed and the names of 22 lot owners written upon 47 lots (Photo 10). A list entitled "The Lotts and streets first laid out..." accompanied the plat, and included the names of earlier lot owners, some of whom no longer retained ownership by 1707. The plat indicates that an unowned lot (number 69), at the head of the cove, included a spatula-like projection of land which may have been Gloucestertown's common wharf. Most of the lots along the cove were owned by merchants. Several wealthy planters such as Nathaniel and Lewis Burwell, Richard March and John Lewis also owned Gloucestertown lots, as did a tobacco inspector, a mariner and the gunner of the fort at Gloucester Point.

During the first half of the eighteenth century Gloucestertown developed into a small village. According to a 1736 description of the town and a 1737 map, only four houses were located there. The town's inhabitants, however, shared a sense of community. They collectively petitioned the House of Burgesses on two separate occasions, asking them to prohibit the construction of wooden chimneys within the town limits and to outlaw the practice of letting swine run at large.



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By 1750 Gloucestertown had grown considerably. John Thurston, a wealthy merchant, had built several buildings there including a personal residence. According to his will, he had built upon lots 8,9, and 27, all of which are included within the nominated acreage (Photo 11). Archaeological remains of several domestic sites also lie within the nominated area. Based upon artifactual evidence, 44Gl39 may be the site of an eighteenth-century tavern, an establishment likely to have been in operation in a port town. According to documentary evidence, other Gloucestertown structures lie within the nominated acreage in areas which are undisturbed by modern intrusion.

A dated watercolor-wash painting of Gloucestertown depicts a total of 28 structures which were standing in the town in 1755. Ten to twelve of them appear to have been dwellinghouses, two of which were large two-story houses and the remainder, one and one-half story structures (Photo 12). The 1755 painting and contemporaneous maps agree that almost all of Gloucestertown's development lay to the west of the cove, within the eastern portion of the acreage nominated. A battery and post windmill were situated at the tip of Gloucester Point, beyond the limits of the Gloucester Point Archaeological District. This area was excluded from the National Register nomination because it was extensively graded ca. 1930.

Documentary evidence suggests that during the remainder of the eighteenth century and throughout the nineteenth century Gloucestertown continued to be sparsely populated. The remains of at least one nineteenth-century structure have been located within the town limits as defined in the 1707 plat.

Throughout the eighteenth century a succession of tobacco inspection warehouses were located at Gloucester Point. These facilities were first established in 1713 when Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood and the Virginia government recognized the need to control the quality and uniformity of colonial tobacco. All tobacco was to be weighed and examined for impurities by appointed officials, after which it was stored until shipment. Gloucestertown was among the earliest sites selected for the construction of a tobacco inspection warehouse. Two local men, John Smith and Hugh Whiting, were named inspectors.

Although the 1713 Tobacco Act was repealed by 1717 and the inspection system abandoned, the Virginia Assembly introduced a new Tobacco Act in 1730. It introduced a system which completely revolutionized tobacco regulation, a procedure which became an integral part of the Virginia tobacco economy. Gloucestertown again was selected as the site of an official tobacco inspection station. The Gloucester inspectorate initially operated in tandem with the inspectorate across the river at Yorktown. By 1734, however, the large amount of tobacco processed at the joint inspectorate warranted its division into two separate entities. The Gloucestertown tobacco inspection facility continued to function until at least 1780.

See Continuation Sheet #6

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Although the site of the Gloucestertown tobacco inspection warehouse and wharf has not been tested archaeologically, it is known to have been located at Gloucestertown, which lies within the nominated acreage. Since by law inspection warehouses were substantially built and palisaded, archaeological remains of the eighteenth-century tobacco warehouse and its wharf, constructed ca. 1761, should be available for study.

In addition to domestic and commercial archaeological sites, the Gloucester Point Archaeological District contains a succession of military fortifications which span three centuries. The strategic importance of Gloucester Point was acknowledged officially by the Executive Council as early as 1665, when it was recognized that access to the upper reaches of the York River and the adjacent countryside could be controlled by fortifying the narrows of the York River at Gloucester Point. In 1667 an earthen-walled fort was built at the point with "wallsten feet thick at least...<sup>3</sup> capable of eight great guns (to be) under constant guard by a gunner and four men." Four years later, because "the materials...were not substantiall or lasting"<sup>4</sup> the Assembly agreed to repair "fort James at Tyndall's Poynt."<sup>5</sup> Another reference, in 1672 alleges that Fort James lacked enough powder to defend itself, although it had been rebuilt.

When war broke out between England and France in 1689 and hostilities quickly spread to America, the Executive Council displayed renewed interest in keeping the fortifications at Gloucester Point in a state of readiness. Men were appointed to attend the cannons continuously and a storehouse and magazine were built on the fort land. A wooden platform 160 feet long and 60 feet wide was constructed and new gun carriages were made. Throughout the 1690's the Executive Council carefully maintained the colony's forts. At the close of the decade, when the war was over, Fort James's gunners were discharged, its ammunition removed, and the fort abandoned.

In 1706 Gloucester Point was fortified again when war broke out between France and Great Britain. Breastworks were erected at Gloucester Point and guns set in place. Governor Spotswood in 1711 ordered that additional guns be placed in the battery, bringing the total to fifteen. Spotswood made six personal inspections of the Gloucester Point fort during the Fall of 1711, an indication of its strategic importance.

According to the Journal of the Executive Council, the Gloucester Point battery was kept in good repair and supplied with cannons and ammunition throughout the next 25 years. In 1743 the House of Burgesses voted to strengthen the fort's battery, noting that while it might adequately protect ships from piracy, it would be of little value in wartime.

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Although historic maps document the fact that Gloucester Point continued to be fortified through at least 1770, it was not until the onset of the Revolutionary War that the fort again was considered vital to the defense of the York River. During the years 1776 and 1781 local militia were stationed at Gloucestertown, and in 1777 workmen were paid for repairs to the fort.

By July 1781 the American forces at Gloucestertown were forced to withdraw. In early August, Charles Lord Cornwallis moved into the area. He concluded that the harbor between Gloucester Point and Yorktown was indispensable and he constructed earthworks on the bluffs of Gloucester Point to protect his men from the rear. He ordered his Chief Engineer, Lieutenant Sutherland, to construct a line of entrenchments, four redoubts and three batteries, to surround Gloucester Point. By the end of August Cornwallis advised his superiors that "the works at Gloucester are now in such forwardness that a smaller detachment than the present garrison would be in safety."<sup>6</sup> He informed them that he had already placed four 18-pounders and one 24-pounder at his Gloucester fortifications, to which he intended to add more heavy guns for the sea batteries. In spite of Cornwallis's defense efforts, the British troops at Gloucester Point capitulated to the American and French forces in an elaborate surrender ceremony held the same day they surrendered at Yorktown.

Although numerous French cartographers mapped the Gloucester Point fortifications ca. 1781, Lieutenant Sutherland, the architect of the British fortifications ca. 1781, depicted Gloucester Point and Gloucestertown's buildings in great detail (Photo 13). Sutherland's map may be correlated with the 1707 plat of Gloucestertown and the archaeological remains of early Gloucestertown structures. Portions of the line of British fortifications survive intact in 1780 (Figure 1). Their archaeological integrity has been verified by field survey.

At the close of the Revolution Gloucester Point was fortified by the Americans and troops were garrisoned at Gloucestertown. The fort continued to be maintained until the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

At the onset of the Civil War Gloucester Point was fortified again. General Robert E. Lee directed the construction of eleven redoubts to which eight 9-pounders and three 32-pounders were added. During construction of the Confederate fortifications Gloucester Point came under attack by armed Union steamers, but the assault was repelled and the earthworks completed. These Confederate earthworks are depicted as a star-shaped fort on an 1862 map, "The Official Plan of the Siege of Yorktown," by H.L. Abbott who mapped the area after the capture of the Confederate fort by Federal forces in May 1862 (Photo 7). Some of these earthworks remain intact and are plainly visible in 1980. Archaeological testing has verified their stratigraphic integrity. An intact bomb proof has been located within this feature during archaeological survey work.

See Continuation Sheet # 8

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During the latter portions of the nineteenth century and the first 80 years of the twentieth century, portions of Gloucester Point have been subjected to development. Modern residences occur at random along its narrow streets. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science has constructed several buildings on the east side of the point and the Coleman Bridge (Route 17), built in the 1950's, has bisected the tip of the point. These disturbed areas have been excluded from the Gloucester Point Archaeological District. Much of the site of Gloucestertown remains intact, however, and underlies the lawns and fields adjacent to small modern houses. The intact remains of at least three Gloucestertown structures are located beneath a bare-earth parking lot on the VIMS property, with the Confederate earthworks lying in an immediately adjacent area. Across Route 17, in the western portion of the nominated area, are intact earthworks dating to the Revolutionary War, some of which extend into the eastern portion of the nominated area. The site of the tobacco warehouses, which according to the documentary record were located in Gloucestertown at the shoreline, are also included.

The Gloucester Point Archaeological District lies adjacent to the Yorktown Shipwrecks Archaeological District, which spans the York River from shore to shore, bordering Gloucester Point. It is directly opposite the Yorktown Historic District and the Yorktown Battlefield. Archaeological excavation at Gloucester Point could offer answers to many previously unaddressed research questions on the evolution of Virginia's economic, domestic and military history. Comparable seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century cultural resources in the Yorktown area were destroyed by construction prior to their inclusion in the National Register. The archaeological sites in the Gloucester Point Archaeological District represent a cross section of almost every major facet of Virginia's cultural heritage during the historic period.

1. W.W. Hening, Hening's Statues at Large, Vol. 1, p. 205.
2. John Reys, Tidewater Towns, P. 87.
3. Hening's Statutes, Vol. II, p. 256.
4. Ibid., II, p. 293.
5. William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 26, Ser. 1, p. 34.
6. Virginia Historical Register, Vol. 6, p. 187.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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GLOUCESTER POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT, Gloucester County, Va.

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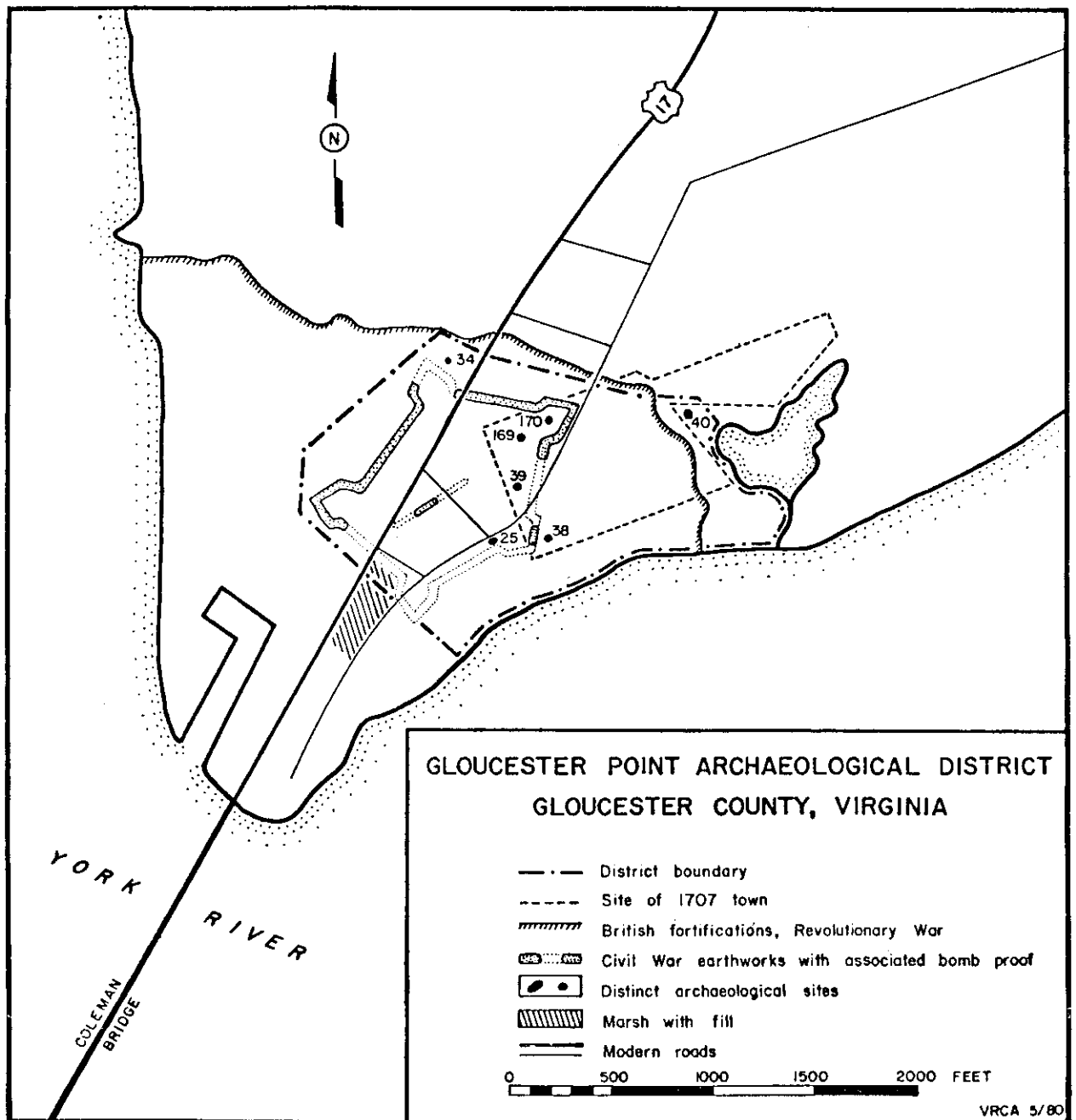


Figure 1